



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/07/2015
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 325
Committee: House Judiciary

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 138 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXAMINE ALL POSSIBILITIES TO ENABLE STUDENT ATHLETIC TEAMS TO RUN AND TRAIN OFF CAMPUS.

Purpose of Resolution:

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) does not support HCR 138 which urges the Department to examine all possibilities to enable student athletic teams to run and train off campus. We offer the following comments.

The Department's "Guidelines Relating to Off-Campus Athletic Activities" states "*Off-campus activities involving athletic teams will be limited to Department of Education (DOE) campuses and facilities. Athletic teams are not allowed to conduct practices and/or activities on city and non-DOE state property **without following the proper protocols and/or obtaining permits.** These practices and/or activities include but are not limited to running on city and state roads, streets, and highways, impromptu practices and/or activities at a park or beach, and running or hiking on a mountain trail. **If an athletic team uses a non-DOE facility for practices and/or activities, the proper permitting protocols as well as approval from the athletic director and/or principal is required.***"

The Guidelines require that an off-campus activity must be approved by the school's administration and proper permits obtained to utilize the non-Department property.

Further, the Department's guidelines for off-campus athletic activities are essential for the safety and welfare of the students and coaches, and are similar to those applicable to off-campus activities such as field trips and student activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Submitted By	Organization	Testimony Position	Vote
Jared Welch	Maui High Cross Country	Support	No

LATE

Comments: Aloha, For the past four years no public high school athletes in the state of Hawaii have been permitted to train off campus or away from a designated park. The DOE implemented a rule prohibiting off campus training due to a student-athlete getting hit by a car during practice, and the subsequent lawsuit brought on by his parents. The impact this has on sports, particularly cross country and track, is great. It's very hard to motivate kids to push themselves when they are confined to a specific area; it takes away the thrill of being able to run somewhere new you previously thought was too far away. It forces extreme monotony onto the sport of running, which most kids think is monotonous to begin with. It also impacts the public schools because private schools don't have to follow the DOE's policies. This further adds to the uneven playing field that exists between public and private schools. Private schools can already recruit kids without geographic limitations, and they can offer financial assistance to premiere athletes to entice them to attend their schools, drawing them away from public schools. Now those private institutions have another bartering chip to use during their recruiting, and an indefinite advantage to use during training. Go to this link for a clear example of how private schools have dominated just the sport of track over the past 30+ years: http://sportshigh.com/sports/track_field/tournament/record_book . Another issue with this ban is that it has also been counterproductive. I am aware of many coaches now circumventing the rule by setting up times for kids to run on their own, not at an official practice. Since these runs cannot be attended by a coach, the kids are therefore running unsupervised. If this ban was not in place, coaches would be able to structure routes for kids to run where they can be at certain points along the routes, ensuring the safety of the kids. If a coach were to do this as things currently stand, he or she would be in violation of this rule. Lastly, childhood obesity is an epidemic, and having a rule like this enacted does not help to address this issue. Rules that take away from the likelihood of a student participating in sports and improving his or her health are contrary to what needs to be done at this time. Please consider passing this resolution. Trust that the student-athletes and the coaches are responsible enough to understand the risks involved when running. You can't let public schools begin to recruit, but you can provide more balance between public and private schools when it comes to training. Mahalo for your time and consideration, Jared Welch, Head Coach Maui High School Cross Country